

CLAIMS

5 ^{sub a1} 1. A method for identifying telephone numbers within an electronic document during a communications session, comprising the steps of:
parsing said electronic document;
recognizing a telephone number contained within an electronic document; and
converting said telephone number to an iconic representation.

10 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said recognizing step comprised the steps of:
transparently disconnecting from said session upon selection of said iconified telephone number and calling said telephone number.

15 3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
recognizing the termination of said telephone call; and
transparently re-connecting to said session.

20 ^{sub a2} 4. The method of Claim 1, said parsing step comprising the step of:
applying a parsing algorithm to said electronic document to pattern-recognize a telephone number contained therein.

25 ^{sub a2} 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
transmitting or displaying said electronic document with said iconified telephone number to a complementary device.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said ~~device is an Internet-capable telephone.~~

Sub
C1

5 The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
converting an HTML code representation of a Web page; and
adding a representation that iconifies said recognized telephone
number.

Sub
C1

10 The method of Claim 7, wherein said HTML code representation is
translated to another format at either a server or a client device.

Sub
C3

15 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said iconified telephone number is
identified by one of a button surrounding the number, font appearance,
underlining, or highlighting.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein all recognized telephone numbers are
iconified.

20 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein telephone numbers meeting specific
criteria are iconified.

25 12. The method of Claim 4, said parsing algorithm comprising the steps of:
developing a set of Picture Formats for the patterns of phone numbers;
reading an accessed electronic document;
checking every character in the text of said electronic document to
determine if it is a numeric character;

applying a pattern-recognition algorithm to sequentially check a
character following an identified number to determine if said character is any of
numeric or an interspersed text or punctuation character;

caching a series of consecutive numbers; and
comparing said caches series to said Picture Formats;
wherein a matching format indicates a telephone number.

5 13. The method of Claim 2, wherein said step of transparently disconnecting
from said session upon selection of said iconified telephone number and calling
said telephone number comprises the steps of:

10 selecting an iconified telephone number in a display of an access device;
said access device initiating a telephone call to said selected number if a
telephone line or sufficient bandwidth is available;

said access device transparently disconnecting from said session if a
telephone line is not available, and thereupon initiating a telephone call to said
selected telephone number;

15 said access device recognizing the termination of said telephone call;
and
said access device optionally transparently re-connecting to said
session.

20 14. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
automatically storing said iconified telephone number in an address
book.

25 15. A method for recognizing and accessing telephone numbers from a Web
page, comprising the steps of:

parsing the HTML code of a Web page accessed during an Internet
session;

applying a parsing algorithm to the text of said Web page to pattern-
recognize a telephone number contained therein;

converting said HTML code to a representation of said Web page;

adding to said representation coding to iconify said recognized telephone number;

transmitting said Web page with said iconified telephone number to an access device for display;

5 transparently disconnecting from said Internet session upon selection of said iconified telephone number and calling said telephone number;

recognizing the termination of said telephone call; and

optionally transparently re-connecting to the Internet.

10 16. The method of Claim 14, wherein said parsing algorithm comprises the steps of:

developing a set of Picture Formats for the patterns of phone numbers;

reading an accessed HTML document using a software program on a server;

15 checking every character in the text of said HTML document to determine if it is a numeric character;

using a pattern-recognition algorithm to sequentially check a character following an identified number to determine if said character is any of numeric or an interspersed text or punctuation character;

20 caching a series of consecutive numbers; and

comparing said caches series to said Picture Formats;
wherein a matching format indicates a telephone number.

25 17. The method of Claim 15, wherein said iconified telephone number is identified by one of a button surrounding the number, font appearance, underlining, or highlighting.

18. The method of Claim 15, wherein all recognized telephone numbers are iconified.

19. The method of Claim 15, wherein telephone numbers meeting specific criteria are iconified.

5 20. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the step of automatically storing said iconified telephone number and related information in an address book.

10 21. A system for recognizing and accessing telephone numbers from a Web page, comprising:

a module for parsing the HTML code of a Web page accessed during an Internet session; and

a parsing algorithm used by said module to pattern-recognize a telephone number contained in the text of said Web page.

15 22. The system of Claim 21, further comprising:

a conversion module used to convert said parsed HTML code to a representation of said Web page; and

20 an iconifying module used by said conversion module to add to said representation coding to iconify said recognized telephone number.

23. An access appliance, comprising:

a Web telephone for receiving and displaying a Web page having an iconified telephone number; and

25 a software module used by said Web telephone to transparently disconnect from an Internet session upon selection of said iconified telephone number and to call said telephone number;

wherein said Web telephone software module recognizes the termination of said telephone call and optionally transparently re-connects to the Internet.